



The creative arts every variety will be offered at the Oranjestad Kunsthuis

Friday, October 27 saw the first of what will be a regular weekly social evening advised Jani Croes, one of the masterminds behind the “Oranjestad Kunsthuis.” The owners of this charming gallery, which unofficially opened their door to offer art patrons the opportunity to mingle with some of the island’s most noted artists, aspire to seeing it become a center for not only the visual arts, but also film and performing arts as well.

A creative team consisting of Gilbert Senchi of the South End Art Gallery, Jani Croes, Karen Martens and Fred Abespoel have brought together a collection that encompasses not only Aruban artwork, but international as well. In addition, the range of creative services offered at the Oranjestad Kunsthuis includes interior decoration, architectural design, art supplies, and even a bit of history. The present works on display are extremely diverse and interesting, many coming from Fred Abespoel’s fascinating collection from the Far East. Even the décor, aside from being comfortable, shows Karen Marten’s artistic flair. One can sit in a stylish, comfortable chair and devote time to contemplating the various works of art.

The creative “dream team” revealed their first big event will take place in approximately three weeks, but are as yet secretive to what it will be. Gilbert explained that the area just outside the Oranjestad Kunsthuis is destined to become an open-air café, aside from the Friday night they will hold a social events at the shop, it will be open every day. The renovations to the area in the back, which will be used for film screenings and live performances, are nearly complete. Their ambition is to see it an active center for all those that love the arts and enjoy stimulating discussion, and promise that the café will offer a very creative, innovative menu.

The present collection is quite intriguing and innovative also, ranging from primitive to highly sophisticated abstracts, and everything in between. Well worth a look, the Oranjestad Kunsthuis is located across from Fort Zoutman.